

June 28, 2022

Chairwoman Debra Savage  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Letter of Support for Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Campus -  
Project No. 22-017

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Members,  
Thank you for considering investing in Project number 22-017 to support the  
mental health of our youth in Central Illinois. The Heart of Illinois United Way  
(HOIUW) also supports this work and is in full support of your investment.

We know through data and our work how poverty and violence adversely affect  
our youth. Every three years, the HOIUW produces a Community Assessment  
that can be found here:

<https://www.hoiunitedway.org/peoria-area-community-assessment/>

In addition to the data in our assessment, we have a strong 211 program that  
connects people in need to health and human services resources. The data from  
211 tells us that many more people, especially youth, are in need of mental health  
resources in our community. This is something that has been significantly under-  
funded for too long. We are seeing the short- and long-term consequences and the  
human and financial costs are high – especially in the long-term. When we can  
address these issues early, the human potential increases dramatically, and the  
cost to serve them reduces.

UnityPoint Health-Methodist Hospital is the only provider in our community of  
child and adolescent inpatient behavioral health services. The demand is so large,  
they cannot keep up and need more financial support.

The proposed child and adolescent behavioral health campus will address these  
unmet needs and provide children and their families in our community with  
increased access to quality behavioral health services close to home.

UPH's decision to purchase and renovate the former Heddington Oaks nursing  
home into the proposed state-of-the-art behavioral health campus is also a benefit  
to the community. The transformation of a vacant property into a state-of-the-art  
facility brings both capital investment and jobs to a vital part of our community.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this project and request. Please feel  
free to contact me should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Zammuto, President



**Heart of Illinois  
United Way**

*Established 1921*

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